



# Outdoors in georgia

August, 1972





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## ON THE COVERS

**FRONT:** Georgia is fortunate in having an abundance of natural beauty in every section of the state; from a sunset on the Ogeechee River in the south, to a rushing stream at Indian Springs in middle Georgia, to the awe-inspiring forest of the north Georgia mountains. Photos by Bob Busby and Bob Wilson.

**BACK:** Waterfalls attract hunters, fishermen, hikers, campers, and, of course, photographers. The appeal is hard to explain in specific terms, but almost everyone lingers for a few wonder-filled moments when he chances upon a waterfall—a masterpiece of nature. Photo by Bob Busby.

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# WE'VE CHANGED - But Then So Have Most of You



Progress — that is what our new name is all about.

OUTDOORS IN GEORGIA is symbolic of the progress in which our magazine as well as the new Department of Natural Resources is currently involved. Our name has been changed to incorporate all of the many activities of our Department into one publication and thereby adding a more meaningful dimension to our magazine. Hunting, fishing, boating, camping, recreational activities, feature stories and many more that incorporate the total Georgia outdoor environment will continue as our major emphasis areas.

We are growing a little in size to include a broader perspective in what we feel you, the reader, will enjoy and appreciate the most. Our growth in size will be paralleled by an equal growth in quality and thereby worthy of your continued readership.

Our growth and progress have been the result of input from many sources with the greatest input coming from you, the subscribers.

Read with us and through the pages of OUTDOORS IN GEORGIA hunt with us, fish with us, go camping, hiking, golfing, skiing, boating with us and join us in all of the activities that our state's environment and natural resources will allow in the outdoors in Georgia.

*Dud Van Orden*

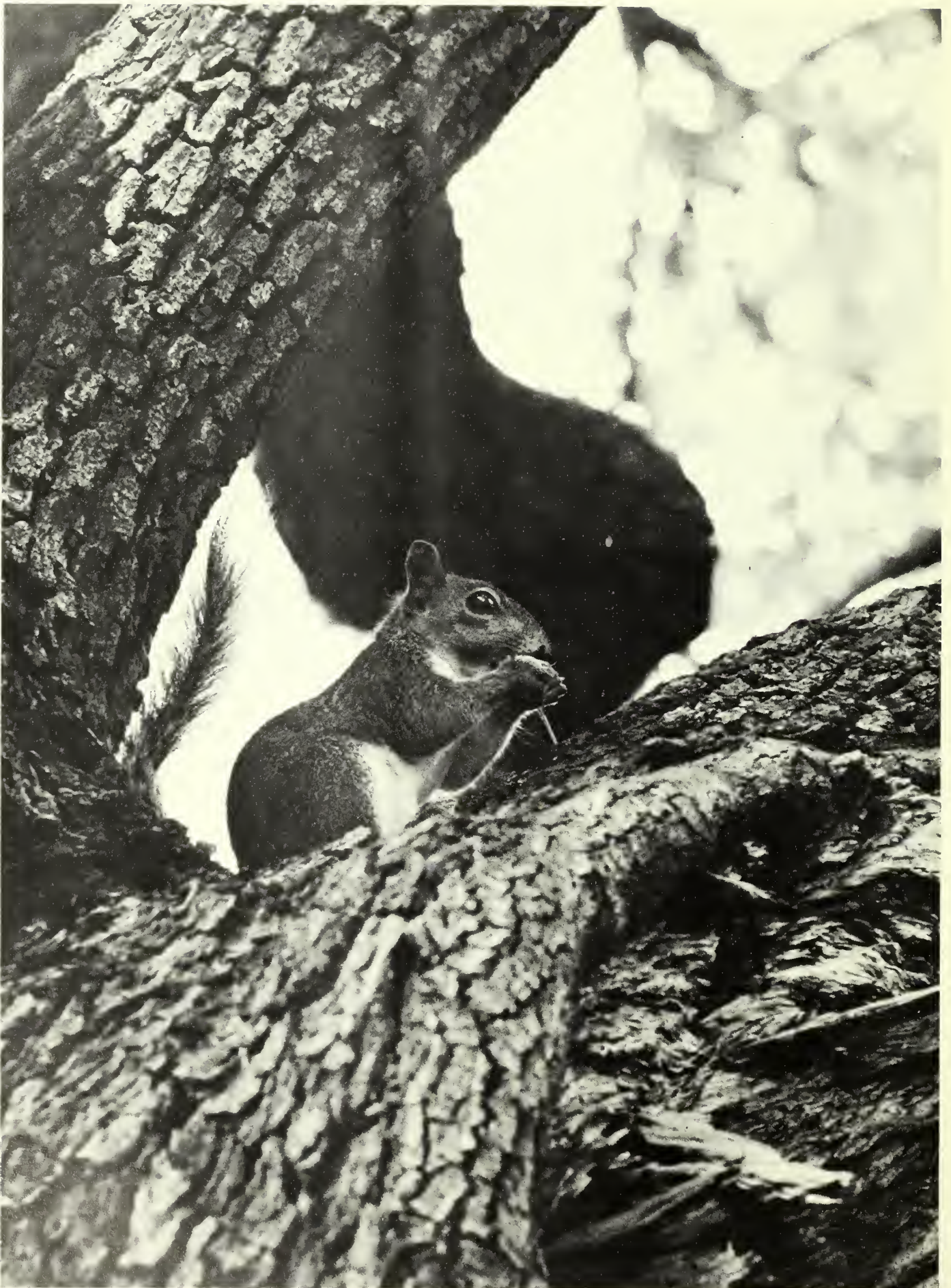


Photo by Bob Busby

# Indian Summer Squirrels

By Aaron Pass

The long, hot summer is now at its peak and hunters throughout the state have been wistfully glancing at calendars, mentally counting the days until the fall hunting seasons roll around. Most seasons, opening in November, still seem to be a long way off, but squirrel hunters can take heart. An early squirrel season will open statewide September 1 and run through September 30. This early squirrel season has been tried successfully in north Georgia counties, but this is the first year on the statewide basis.

The early season was originally opened in response to the pleas of squirrel hunters wanting to hunt during "Cutting-time." This period occurs in early fall when the just-ripening acorns, hickory nuts, and other mast species are still on the trees. This was the traditional squirrel hunting season of the early frontiersmen and remained so up into the present century.

According to Hubert Handy, Chief of Wildlife Management for the Game

and Fish Division of the Department of Natural Resources, "The nuts are still on the trees in September, but will fall before the regular squirrel season opens on November 4." This season will provide excellent hunting for squirrels at a time when they are most plentiful. "We hope to provide additional hunting opportunities for Georgia sportsmen and effectively manage the squirrel population by returning to this traditional hunting period," Handy said.

An adequate annual harvest of the surplus of squirrels produced each year is necessary to good wildlife management and maintaining a healthy squirrel population. Squirrels, like rabbits, are a prey species for many predators and, also like rabbits, squirrels possess a high reproductive capability. When conditions are favorable and good mast crops produce abundant food, the squirrel population can approach a maximum density in a very short time. "The amount of squirrel reproduction in the spring is indicative of the past year's mast



Photo by Aaron Pass

*These nut shell cuttings indicate squirrel activity in the area. For late summer hunting the shells should be freshly cut; if no fresh sign is found, the squirrels may have left the area. Look for these cuttings on stumps and logs as well as under the feeding trees.*

production. When that year was good, the squirrels approach breeding season in good condition and reproduce large litters of young. The survival of these young, however, is dependent on the mast produced the same season they were," Handy said.

Unfortunately poor mast years are not uncommon and when one occurs simultaneously with a year of peak squirrel population, a food shortage results. This is what is believed to have happened in 1966 when north

Georgia was over-run by migrating squirrels. Several good mast seasons had produced a large squirrel population which was left without food by a mast failure. This season was followed by several lean years for north Georgia squirrel hunters.

"An adequate annual harvest would keep the squirrel population trimmed to something less than a maximum number and serve as a safeguard against that sort of thing," Handy says. The early squirrel season

combined with the regular season later in the fall should accomplish this population control and allow the hunter to take his part of the harvest from the surplus animals while maintaining a safe breeding population.

This season's prospects for squirrels look very good, since last year was a good mast season. This should insure an abundance of squirrel produced this spring. The best areas of the state will probably be middle and north Georgia due to the large proportion of mast-producing hardwoods in these areas.

The best spots for squirrel hunting are usually found along creeks and branches, in groves of mature hardwoods. Shredded hickory nut hulls and other debris are a sure sign of squirrel activity in the area. During the early season these cuttings will be found under the feeding trees and a stand taken nearby should produce squirrels.

Squirrels are most active during their feeding periods early in the morning and again late in the afternoon, making these the most productive hunting times. During the midday hours the squirrels do not move around much, but loaf in the

*This hunter has located a den tree and is staking it out. These hollow trees are very important as shelters for squirrels in cold weather and in times of danger.*

*The entrance to a den in current use will have a clean almost polished look.*



Photo by Aaron Pass

high branches instead. If an intruder happens along, the squirrel will freeze and remain motionless until the danger has passed. This habit makes a squirrel very hard to see, particularly in the heavy foliage of late summer.

There are as many methods of squirrel hunting as there are squirrel hunters, but for the lone hunter stalking and sitting rate as two of the best. To sit you merely find a likely spot and sit, waiting for the squirrels to come to you. You must sit quietly because squirrels are keen of both sight and hearing, and any undue motion or noise will spook them out of the area. In stalking you move quietly and slowly through an area, pausing frequently to look and listen for unwary squirrels.

As for equipment, avoid light colors. Dark clothes are much better, and camouflage is preferred. For September hunting, liberal applications of insect repellent will add much to the enjoyment of your trip since mosquitoes and chiggers will be out in force. Add a sharp knife for immediate field dressing and all that is needed is a gun.

A .22 rimfire rifle is the classic squirrel hunting gun, it is the most sporting by far, but a shotgun with no. 4 to 6 shot will more quickly fill

the same game bag. There are also many places where a rifle might be unsafe due to nearby houses. The shotgun, with its limited range, is safer and is more efficient due to the heavy leaf cover at this time of year.

Most of the squirrels born this spring should be of shootable size by now. The younger squirrels are much more tender in the frying pan, than those who have reached maturity. It would be a good idea to avoid the larger squirrels as they might be caring for a late litter as yet unable to fend for itself. Shooting into squirrel nests is illegal and highly unsporting, if not downright immoral. Many animals are wounded or killed in this manner each season and are wasted by being left in the apparently "empty" bed.

As with all game killed during warm weather, squirrels should be field dressed without delay to prevent spoilage. At this time of year squirrels are likely to have parasites known as warbles or "wolves." These "wolves" are the larvae of the bot fly and are found under the skin. While unsightly, they do not impair the squirrel's edibility in any way.

If the summer's inactivity has got you down, an early season squirrel hunt might be just the tonic for relief from the doldrums.



Photo by Aaron Poss

*Planning where each hunter will hunt is an excellent safety precaution and will help insure a successful hunt. It will keep the hunters out of each others' lines of fire and keep the squirrels in one stand from being disturbed by an excess of activity.*

Photo by Aaron Poss



# GEORGIA'S



# GEMS

**By Dick Davis**

Photos by  
Jim Couch and Bob Busby



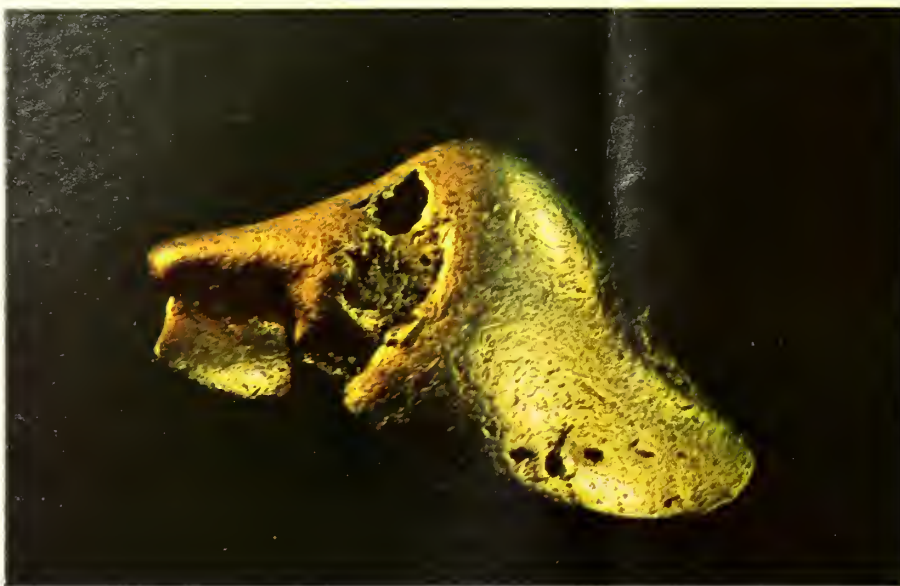
Georgia is a mecca for gem and mineral hunters and a treasureland of gemstones. Much of the state is a happy hunting ground for collectors, especially when the hunt is broadened to include any mineral, crystal, ore or fossil that can be studied and displayed as it occurs or that can be increased in beauty by sawing, cutting, carving and polishing.

The Blue Ridge Mountains of north Georgia are among the most ancient mountains on earth and have, through many centuries, been severely weathered. The material removed by weathering, earth movements and other natural forces has moved into Georgia's rich Coastal Plain and the river valleys. This has exposed a myriad of rich gem and mineral deposits which in many other parts of the United States remain buried deep under the surface.

The precious stones of Georgia are found most often in the area of crystalline rocks, which extends from Macon northward to the borders of North Carolina and Tennessee, and reaches westward and eastward to the Alabama and South Carolina borders. This includes the mountains and the Piedmont. Across this northern part of the state are found a colorful assortment of minerals and gems. In the Coastal Plain, however, are found a few gems such as chalcedony, jasper, agate and opal.

In the north Georgia and Piedmont

*Large specimen on the right is uncut aquamarine crystal, pictured with polished gemstones made from aquamarine.*



*Gold nugget found in a stream near Dahlonega weighs approximately five ounces and is nearly the size of a hen's egg.*

areas are the spectacular crystals, including smoky quartz, crystal quartz, amethyst, corundum, ruby, sapphire, barite, blue and green kyanite, deep red and light pink garnets, beryl crystals of aquamarine and golden beryl, black tourmaline and satulolite. In the underground quarry at Marble Hill are found large, beautiful white, violet, and pink calcite crystals.

Those who wish to hunt minerals other than gemstones may collect varieties of iron ore and barite in the Cartersville mining district or near Cedartown in Polk County. Those interested in the aura of the gold rush

days can experience the thrill of gold panning in Dahlonega, Cleveland or Helen.

In the Coastal Plain of southeast and southwest Georgia, gem, ore and fossil collectors can often experience success in their searches at a number of different localities.

Mineral collecting, cutting and polishing is one of the fastest-growing avocations in the state and in the nation. This intensely appealing hobby fascinates men, women and children of all walks of life. The lure of seeking hidden treasure in the great out-of-doors is undeniable and irresistible.

Precious stones or gems include minerals or rocks that are valued for their luster, color, transparency or hardness. Gemstones vary widely in value and are called "precious" stones such as the ruby and diamond, or "semi-precious," such as the aquamarine or garnet. Most of Georgia's gemstones are classified as "semi-precious."

Gemstones also vary in value according to characteristics such as color. A blue diamond is more highly prized than a yellowish one, and red corundum or ruby far exceeds in value the yellow corundum or oriental topaz. Most attractive colors in gemstones are due to foreign materials in the minerals. Blue sapphires, red rubies and green emeralds get their unique colors from such impurities as nickel and chromium oxide.

The luster of a gem results from the way in which the light passes through it, i.e. the index of refraction. Diamond, with its high index of refraction, has a brilliant display of colors; quartz, with a low refraction index, has a dull luster.

The way a gem is cut can do much to affect its luster. Stones are cut in the "facet cut," in which the stone is ground with plane surfaces, and the "cabochon cut" in which the stone is cut with round surfaces. Clear stones such as diamond, aquamarine and amethyst are facet cut; translucent stones such as carnelian, moonstone and opal are cabochon cut.

Hardness of a stone is an important quality of a gem and is one of the best criteria to use in distinguishing between genuine and imitation stones. Many imitations are made of colored glass and can be scratched with a knife, but most true gems cannot be scratched in this way.

The amateur collector—and that includes most rockhounds—need not have his stones cut. The rough stones and crystals make an excellent cabinet display and also illustrate the mode of natural occurrence of the minerals. For the novice and others who wish, accurate identification of mineral and rock specimens can be obtained without charge from geologists of the Earth and Water Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources. Display collections of Georgia's rocks and minerals have for more than 20 years been provided to the state's schools by the State Geologist. The collections in-

*Polished Georgia jasper and granite fashioned into tie clasp and cuff links.*



clude 80 specimens which the schools display in locked cabinets when not in actual classroom use.

What is the best method for the fledgling collector to follow in assembling his display of gems and rocks and minerals?

One of the first points of contact when going into an area to collect specimens is a visit to other collectors residing in the area or talking with persons who have previously worked the area. Good hospitality often awaits those who visit local collectors.

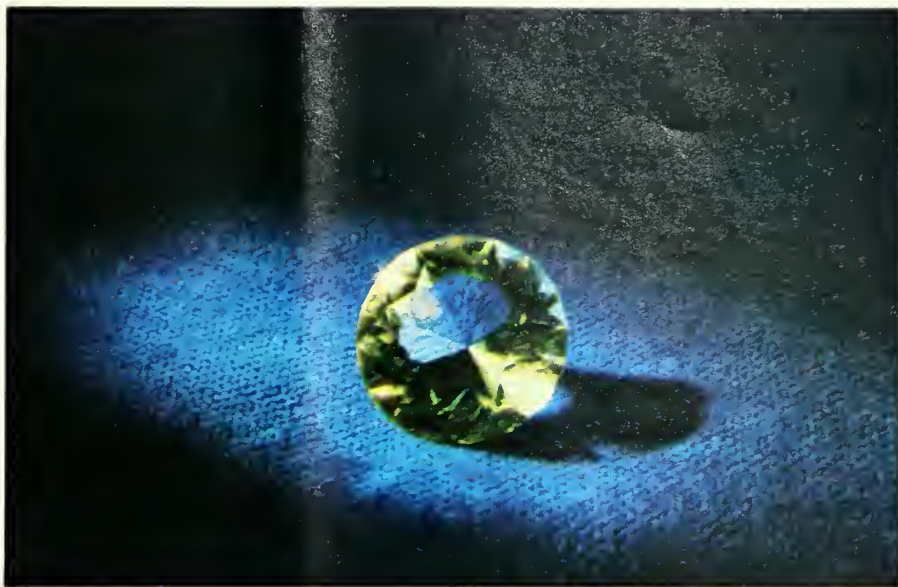
Useful information can often be obtained from the rock shops of the area. Many of the proprietors are glad to help and may handle useful guidebooks. These shops also usually have outstanding specimens of what the collector may be seeking. Another good source of local information may be mineral museums, if these are available. The curator can usually tell the sources of the specimens in his displays and this provides good leads.

Many of the best known collecting sites charge a small fee, or the owner works the deposits himself and sells the production through dealers. However, many property owners, if tactfully approached, will give rockhounds permission to hunt minerals without cost. Such permission should definitely be obtained before hunting is started.

For equipment, a collector should take with him a small pick; a geologist's pick is suggested, but any of several types of light, easily carried picks would suffice. A belt attachment to hold the pick is very desirable. For carrying collected specimens, there should be a pouch or knapsack of some type that can be carried over the shoulder or attached to the waist. Other helpful equipment may be a hunting knife, maps of the area and small handbooks for rock and mineral identification, a compass and first aid kit, including snakebite kit. Heavy-duty field-type shoes or boots and field clothes are appropriate. Heavy work gloves may prove valuable as may a canteen of water.

Gem stones, both precious and semi-precious, found in Georgia include: diamonds, corundum, quartz, opal, beryl, garnets, moonstone, rutile, zircon, kyanite, lazulite, epidote, staurolite and pearls.

Diamonds have been found in Hall, White, Habersham, Carroll, Paulding, Fulton, Twiggs and Cobb Counties.



*Clear Georgia rock crystal quartz sparkles brilliantly.*

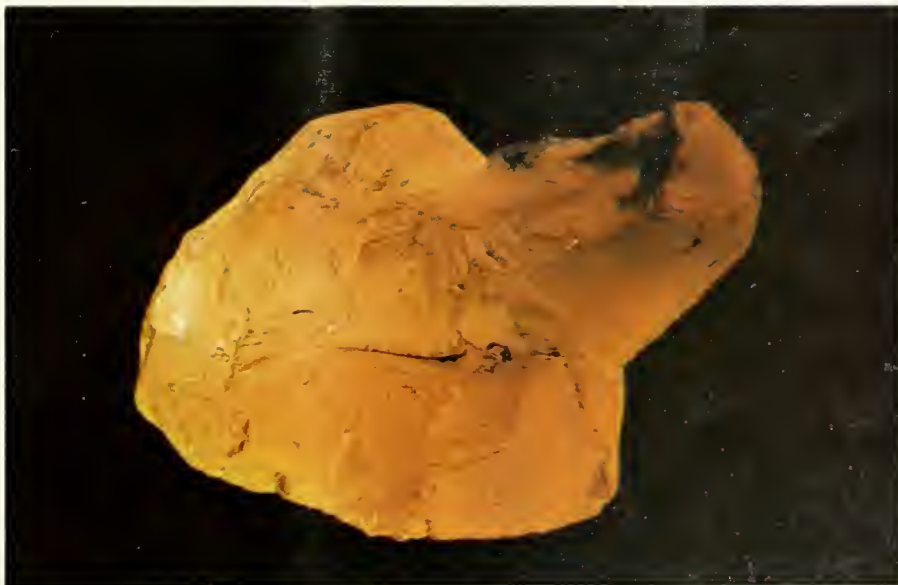
However, the source of these diamonds is unknown as all were finds made in placer deposits or in the Coastal Plain and it is not known where or from what rocks the diamonds were derived.

Corundum is aluminum oxide and the mineral generally has a cloudy red, pink, blue or gray color. When it is clear, corundum is a gem stone; if red it is known as a ruby, if blue it is a sapphire, if yellow it is an oriental topaz, if green it is called an oriental emerald, and is a violet sapphire if that color. This stone is exceeded in hardness only by diamond, and cloudy

corundum is widely used as an abrasive. Deposits of corundum occur in Rabun, Towns, Union, Habersham, Lumpkin, Hall, Forsyth, Cherokee, Walton, Cobb, Paulding, Douglas, Carroll, Heard, Troup and Upson Counties.

Quartz, one of the most common of all minerals, occurs in crystalline and in non-crystalline or crypto-crystalline form. Chemically, quartz is silicon dioxide. The crystalline varieties of quartz that are used for gems are transparent and have a vitreous luster. This luster distinguishes between colorless quartz, i.e. rock crystal, and

*Troup County is famed for outstanding Rose Quartz specimens such as this one.*





*Attractive polished slab of petrified wood collected near Randall Creek east of Columbus in Muscogee County.*

diamond. Rock crystal is found in Troup, Rabun, Forsyth, Jones, Wilkes, Franklin, Fulton and other counties. Troup County is famed for its beautiful asteriated quartz, and opalescent asteriated quartz is also found in the old Kell Mine area in Rabun County.

Amethyst is the violet or purple variety of crystalline quartz and Rabun and Towns County have furnished fine specimens. Clarke County is believed to be an area which may yield amethyst. To be of gem quality, an amethyst must be completely free of cloudiness and the color must be deep and evenly distributed.

Non-crystalline varieties of quartz include chalcedony, agate and jasper. Chalcedony is a grey-to-blue form with a waxy luster. In Crisp County, markings of manganese or iron oxide occur in chalcedony; this is known as moss agate. Agates are identified by having bands, each band being of a different shade of color. Agates have been found in Jones County, in Cobb County near Marietta, and in Fulton and Baldwin Counties. Jasper is opaque, usually brown or red, and takes a very high polish because of its hardness. Reddish brown jasper is found in Jones County near Round Oak, red jasper occurs along the Flint River near Albany, yellow-brown jasper has been collected in Houston County, and brown jasper has been found in the Clarkesville area of Habersham County. Another fruitful hunting ground for jasper has been in the ditches of southern Bartow County, south of Kingston and near Salt Peter Cave.

Beryl is a beryllium aluminum silicate which occurs with coarse-grained rocks known as pegmatites. Dark-green beryl is known as emerald, the greenish-blue as aquamarine. Common green beryl is found at many

localities in the area of crystalline rocks, but due to poor transparency is not a gem. True emerald, the queen of gems, has never been found in Georgia, though some gemologists, citing finds of the gem in North and South Carolina, believe it will eventually be collected in this state. This is a real prize for the aspiring collector to seek!

Garnet is common in the crystalline rocks of Georgia, but only rarely is it of clarity or size for gem material. The most common is almandine, a deep red, and more rare is essonite, a cinnamon color. When picked up, the crystals usually have a rusty coating of iron oxide that have been leached from the mineral. Choice, sizable garnet crystals are found in Paulding County near the Little Bob pyrite mine near Hiram. Garnets are also abundant in Hill, Lumpkin, Cherokee, Hart, Dawson, Rabun and Carroll Counties.

Moonstone is a feldspar which ex-

hibits a beautiful pale blue opalescence. Display gems have been fashioned from specimens collected near Buford in Gwinnett County and from the Upson County area around Thomaston. When moonstones are cabochon cut, an intaglio or cameo can be engraved.

Rutile is an oxide of titanium and usually black or reddish brown. Graves Mountain in Lincoln County has for years been one of the nation's most popular locations for collecting red rutile crystals, large and twinned. However, this area is now being extensively mined for kyanite and there may be only very limited opportunity for collecting. Lazulite, a phosphate of alumina with beautiful crystals, also occurs at Graves Mountain, but is not of sufficient hardness to cut as gems.

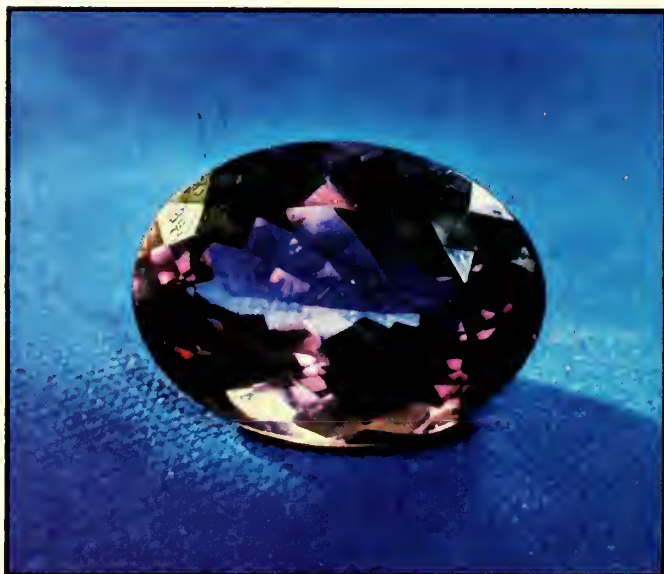
Epidote, with an unusual pistachio green color, has limited use in jewelry. Most of the epidote found in the state has not been of perfect transparency, but it is not considered impossible that clear stones will be found.

Fannin and Cherokee Counties are noted for their large numbers of staurolite cruciform crystals which are known as "fairy crosses" when uncut.

A few pearls of value have been obtained from shells of mussels in streams in the northeastern part of the state. Pearls obtained from oysters along the state's coastlands lack luster and are largely valueless.

So for the gem and mineral seekers the treasure awaits from Rabun Gap to Tybee Light, and the hills, the valleys and the plains beckon. Go get 'em!

*45 carat amethyst found in Charley's Creek in northeast Georgia. This prize specimen is one of the largest perfect amethysts ever found in the state and is among the finest in the world.*



# GATOR AID

By Ron Odom



The American alligator, once commonly seen throughout the southeast and presently classified as an "endangered species," appears to be gradually increasing in numbers in south Georgia. New legislation, stricter law enforcement, increased knowledge through research, and education all appear to play their part in this gradual population increase. It has been clearly demonstrated that alligator populations can increase quite rapidly with proper protection and management.

Aside from the familiar dollar-value of 'gator hides, the alligator is important in many less-talked about ways. In the marsh, for example,

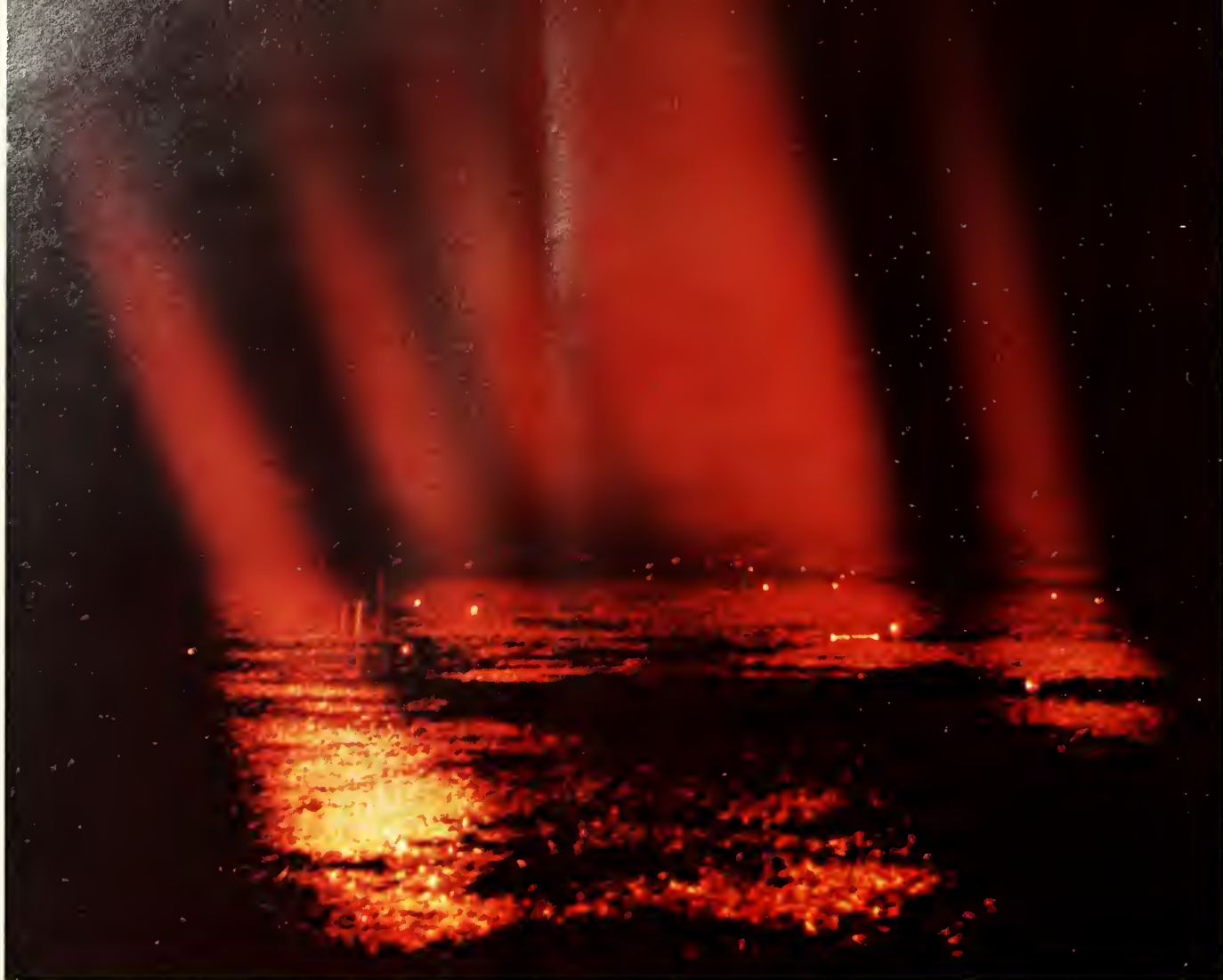


Photo by William Minser III

*Pinpoint reflections of light stare back from the eyes of many gators on the quiet pond at night.*

particularly in the coastal areas, water supplies during the dry months often dwindle leaving wildlife in these areas without an adequate source of water. During these dry periods, alligators dig or wallow large holes in the marsh. Usually associated with their dens, these holes provide water for the alligator as well as for many other animals and birds of the marsh. Plants found growing around these water holes are also valuable as food and cover for wildlife.

Though thought of by most people as ugly, frightening and dangerous, alligators in reality are just the opposite. Those who are familiar with these reptiles will claim them to be fascinating rather than frightening, and extremely timid when approached by man rather than aggressive. The patient photographer will find the alligator to be excellent subject material for both photography and observation. Most will agree that the thrill of seeing one of these magnificent reptiles in the wild is one that is not easily forgotten.

Studies in Louisiana have shown that female

alligators lay between 2 and 58 eggs, with the average clutch size being 38. Incubation of the clutch, which will have an average hatching success of approximately 60%, takes 62 to 64 days.

Personnel of the Refugee Division of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission have equipped a number of alligators with collar-type radio transmitters, in an effort to track them and gather data on home ranges. They have found that the average female alligator usually ranges from 6 to 40 acres with minimal movement occurring during the nesting season and maximal movement occurring during the courting period in May. After the onset of nesting, the female usually restricts her activities to a  $\frac{1}{3}$  acre area around the nest site.

Males, on the other hand, appear to have very large territories, with the larger animals showing the greatest movement. Certain bulls have been shown to travel some 20 miles in a 2½ month period. The courting period, as with

females, is the time for greatest movement.

Food preference studies by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission reveal that invertebrates (snails, crayfish, etc.) are the primary food source of the immature alligator. Mature alligators, those over 5 feet in length, showed a preference for vertebrates (fish, raccoons, birds, snakes, etc.).

Present populations, though low, appear to be slightly increasing in many areas and have even overpopulated isolated areas. Knowledge gained through these studies and other similar studies will enable us to better manage alligator populations in the future.

Although population trends in certain areas are encouraging, other areas are still heavily poached. Excessive hunting, the primary reason for declining alligator numbers over the years, continues to be a threat to our 'gators. In the past, prime 'gator hides (3-5 feet) were very much in demand. As much as \$7.00 per foot was paid for these prime hides which were

used in the manufacture of leather goods. Courts were often sympathetic with the poacher—often encouraging rather than discouraging this needless slaughter. In the future, loss of habitat may prove to be an even more serious threat than poaching. Wetlands and swamps continue to be drained at an alarming rate throughout Georgia.

Dwindling populations recently prompted Congress to enact legislation (The 1970 Endangered Species Conservation Act) in an effort to give added protection to the alligator with the hope of increasing, or at least preserving, the present alligator population. This legislation has helped eliminate much of the buying and selling of hides, however, poaching continues and evidently remains a lucrative business for certain individuals. On April 3, 1972, in Atlanta, a grand jury indicted a father and son team on 40 counts of illegal buying, selling, and transporting 6,294 alligator skins. Similar charges were brought against these

*The "catch-man" is eased into position. A spotlight attached to his cap enables him to use both hands on the snare pole.*

Photo by Duane Harris





*With a wire loop around its neck, and feeling itself snatched from its sanctuary, an alligator is apt to get surly.*

same two men in other states. Federal Game Agents involved in this case should be commended for their role in breaking up this illegal hide trade.

This summer marks the second year of a co-operative project, between the State Game and Fish Division and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, designed to remove surplus alligators from an over-populated area and release them in other suitable areas that are under-populated.

Blackbeard Island, National Wildlife Refuge, has been the primary source for these surplus alligators. Bureau officials estimate Blackbeard's alligator population to be between 1,000 and 1,400 animals. Most of these thrive in two man-made fresh water lakes on the island. Flag Pond, known also for its popularity as a public fishing area, consists of 450 acres, while North Pond comprises some 90 acres.

It was clear that the alligator population on Blackbeard Island was nearly bursting at the seams, and that here was an opportunity to obtain surplus alligators for redistribution elsewhere. Permission was therefore granted to capture 200 alligators on the island and it was agreed that one-half of the catch would go to the state with the Federal Government redistributing the other half.

Last summer 63 alligators were removed from Blackbeard and restocked on wildlife management areas in south Georgia. An additional 23 'gators, either having been confis-



*As soon as the alligator calms down another member of the catching team grabs the reptile's tail, and the animal is swung into the boat.*

cated or captured in private ponds, were restocked in south Georgia.

The first trapping effort this year was made on the nights of May 15 and 16. Three crews captured a total of 78 'gators ranging in size from 10 inches to 8 feet long. Another effort was made on June 12 and 13 and resulted in the capture of 61 alligators. Efforts will continue through August in an effort to remove our quota of 200 alligators from the island.

Of those captured thus far, 117 have been transported by the Bureau to refuges in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Alabama. The remainder have been redistributed by the state in south Georgia and coastal regions.

Alligators are most easily captured at night with the aid of a headlamp. The surface of the pond is scanned with the light and one set of "glowing eyes" is singled out. The boat is slowly and gently paddled in the direction of the eyes—a man with a "catch pole" is firmly positioned in the bow. When the gator is approached, a wire snare, attached to the end of a long, stout pole, is slipped over its head. A sharp jerk of the pole tightens the snare and it's simply a matter of holding on until the violent thrashing and twisting has ended, indicating that the 'gator has tired. The 'gator is then lifted into the boat where its mouth is taped shut and he is placed in a burlap sack to restrain him. Later after they are weighed, sexed, and measured, they are transferred to a large flatbed truck which will then be barged to the mainland.

Added protection, more stringent penalties, habitat preservation, and education are all necessary to make any restocking effort successful. We now must become aware of our ability to wipe out the alligator population in America—just as other species have been eliminated through man's selfishness and lack of concern. Let's hope that any efforts to save our 'gators have not begun at too late a date and that future generations can enjoy the thrill of watching this unusual reptile in the wild. Let's hope that there's more to show our grandchildren than old handbags, shoes, and belts—what could very well be all that's remaining in the future of what was once a very important and unique animal of our marshes and swamps.



Photos by Duane Harris

*With the alligator in the boat and under control his mouth is taped shut to insure the safety of the crew and other alligators held in the same pen.*



# INDIAN

## State Park

By Mabel Wilkins

It is said that on nights when the moon is full, the faint sound of drumbeats can be heard and streamers of smoke from myriad campfires can be seen rising wraithlike above the old Indian campground on a high hill west of the spring at Indian Springs State Park.

For many centuries before white men came to this area, the soft tread of moccasined feet wore narrow pathways through these woodlands to the sulfur spring whose healing waters restored health to the sick and imparted extra vigor to the well.

Indian Springs was unknown to white men until 1792 when the site was discovered by a government scout named Douglas Watson.

In 1800 a cabin was erected at the spring by General William McIntosh, the famous half-breed Indian chief whose name is emblazoned through the pages of our country's history. McIntosh's mother was the sister of chiefs and a member of the Wind Clan, one of the highest ranking clans of the Creek Nation. Through his father, Captain William McIntosh of the British Army, he was a cousin of George M. Troup who became Governor of Georgia in 1823.

In 1819, Chief McIntosh built a wayside inn that still stands today across the road and outside the boundaries of the present state park. The two-story structure had a long porch across the front and was truly a masterpiece for those builders of early days. Not a spike was used in the construction of this huge 34-room building—just wooden pegs. It was here that the Treaty of 1825 was signed, which led to the death of Chief McIntosh at the hands of his own people. The Creeks, incited by Cherokee Chief John Ross, believed that McIntosh had "sold them out" by signing over all the remaining Creek lands in Georgia to the United States government for money. That his death was a tragic mistake is borne out by later research. An educated man, McIntosh was able to assess

# *SPRINGS*

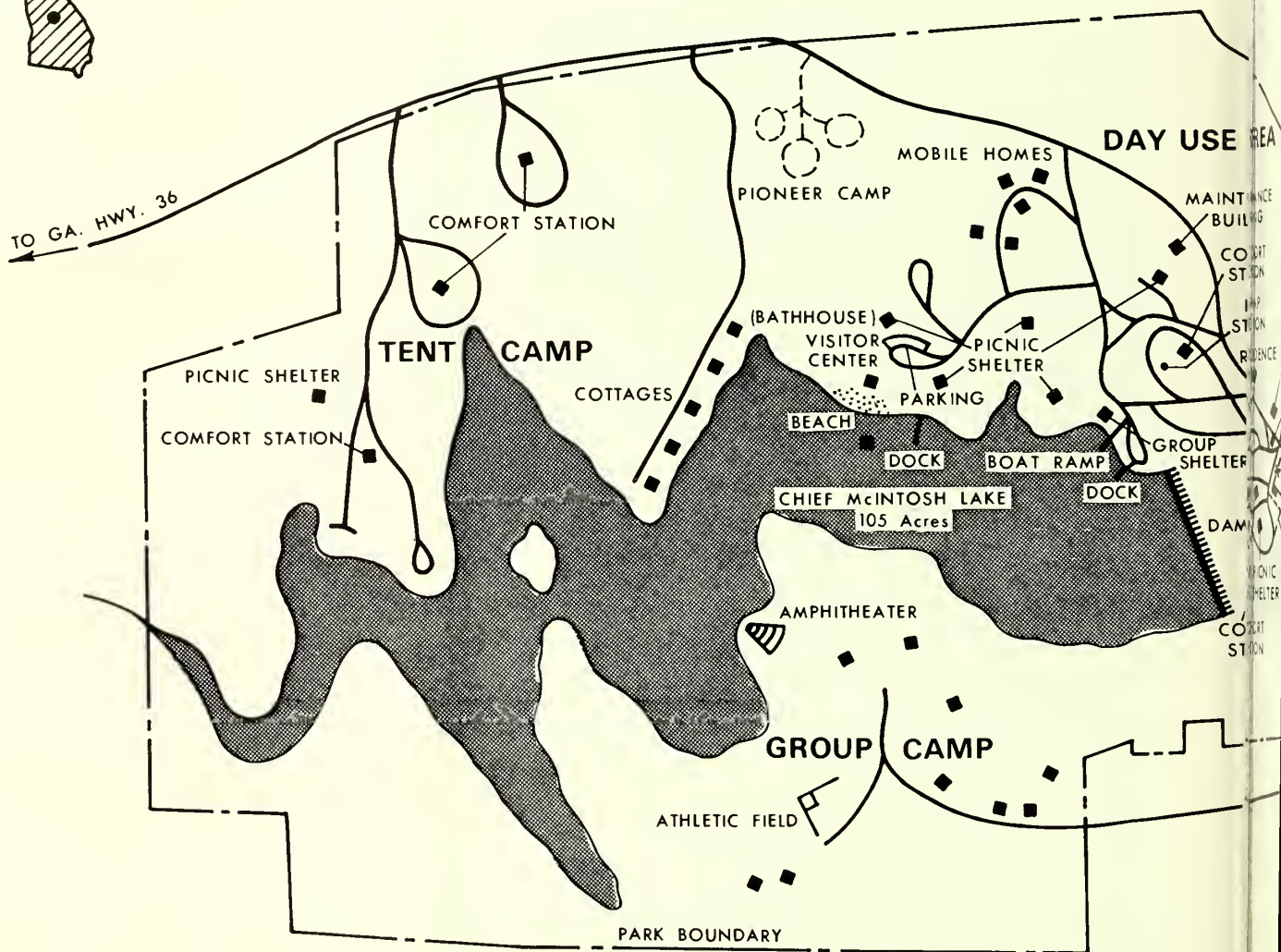


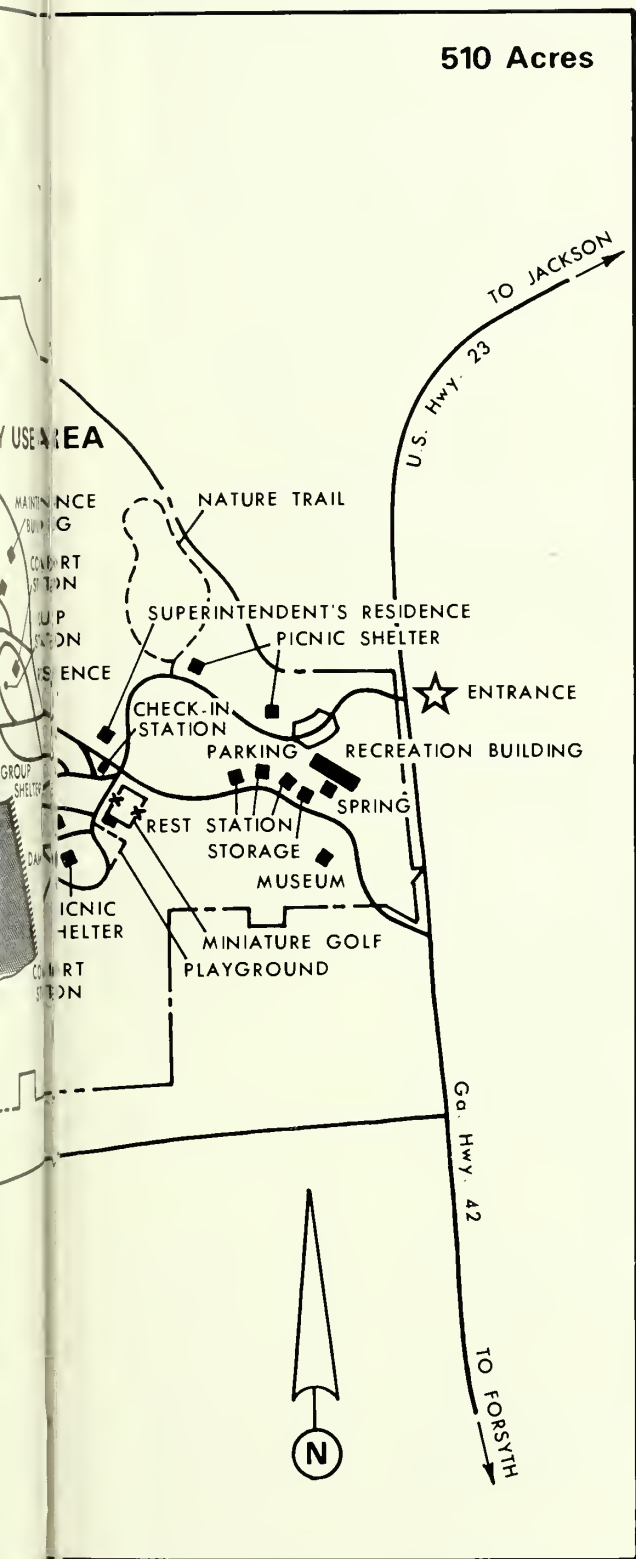
Photo by Bob Wilson

INDIAN SPRINGS STATE PARK  
INDIAN SPRINGS, GEORGIA  
BUTTS COUNTY

Not to Scale

1-72





the situation confronting his people realistically. The white man, constantly growing in numbers, wanted and needed the Indian lands. Although they were then willing to buy the land, later on, if refused, they undoubtedly would just *take* it. McIntosh recognized their offer for what it really was—an ultimatum. Regrettably, in trying to salvage what he would for his people out of an impossible situation, his motives were misunderstood and his life was taken in retribution.

Although not officially designated as a state park until 1925, Indian Springs was known and

Photo by Bob Busby



used as a state-owned recreation park by many generations of Georgians after the Treaty of 1825. For more than a century now, visitors—both children and adults—have waded in the creek shoals and searched for arrowheads and pottery fragments. At one time a grist mill ground corn by these shoals, and an ancient cemetery still lies in a remote area of the park, half-hidden by protective vegetation and unseen by park visitors.

Today's visitors can still wade in the creek shoals, follow foot trails through the woodland and pitch their tents in the campground. Large, self-contained trailers far outnumber the more primitive tents. Those who "rough it" in tents, however, are not above using the electricity connections at the camp sites or the modern sanitary facilities, including hot showers and automatic laundry equipment, at the comfort stations. Although many of today's campers take all the comforts of home with them when venturing out into the great outdoors and bear no



Photo by Bob Busby

Photo by Bob Wilson



resemblance to the self-sufficient, wilderness-type camper, they nevertheless benefit from the clean fresh air they breathe and the moderate amount of exercise in which they indulge.

For those who usually spend their vacations on the highways and byways, spending each night in a different motel, the opportunity to spend a more restful vacation but still with all the comfort of motel accommodations (except television!) is possible by staying a week in a state park cottage.

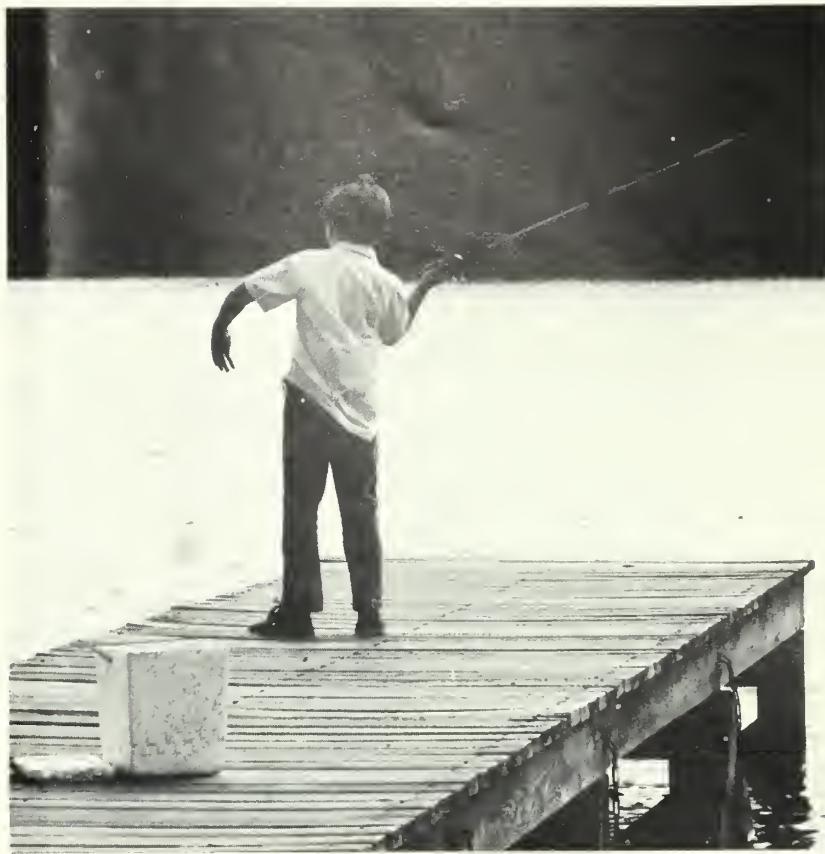
Five new 2-bedroom cottages overlook the 105-acre park lake at Indian Springs. Each cottage provides sleeping accommodations for six persons—for seven, if one family member doesn't mind sleeping on the living room sofa. The bathroom is equipped with a shower, and there is a brick fireplace in the living room for a cozy, marshmallow-toasting fire on cool fall or spring evenings. For wintertime visitors, just a tap to the control of the central heating unit will send warm air flowing throughout the cottage. Central air-conditioning is just as easily available during summer nights or whenever the cool breeze across the lake stops blowing.

There is truly something for every age to enjoy at Indian Springs State Park. A large bathhouse-concession building overlooks the white sand beach where lake swimmers or just sunbathers can acquire a good tan. Rental boats are available at very modest fees to those who would like to explore the far reaches of the lake, or who would just like to fish in some quiet cove. In close proximity to each other in the day-use area of the park is a miniature golf course and a fascinating Indian Museum.

For those who like to listen to the birds sing, or catch a glimpse of small wildlife among the trees, there is a marked nature trail that is short enough for young and old alike—a circular pathway, less than a mile and a half long.

There are no finer sites in Georgia for just “sitting and meditating” than along the creek bank and around the lake. Tables where families can spread a picnic lunch are plentiful throughout the park. It would be hard to find a better spot for a family outing than Indian Springs State Park.

For a map of this park and more detailed information about all of Georgia's State Parks, just call or write to: Parks and Recreation Division, Department of Natural Resources, 719 Trinity-Washington Building, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.



*Visitors to Indian Springs State Park can see the old wayside inn where Chief McIntosh signed the Treaty of 1825, selling all Creek Indian lands in Georgia to the U.S. Government or the less historically minded, like this young angler, can try out the fishing in the 105-acre lake in the park.*

Photos by Bob Busby



**GAME ZONE MAP OF GEORGIA**

SCALE OF MILES: 0 10 20 30 40

**GAME ZONE I**

**GAME ZONE II**

**GAME ZONE III**

**GAME ZONE IV**

**GAME ZONE V**

**GAME ZONE VI**

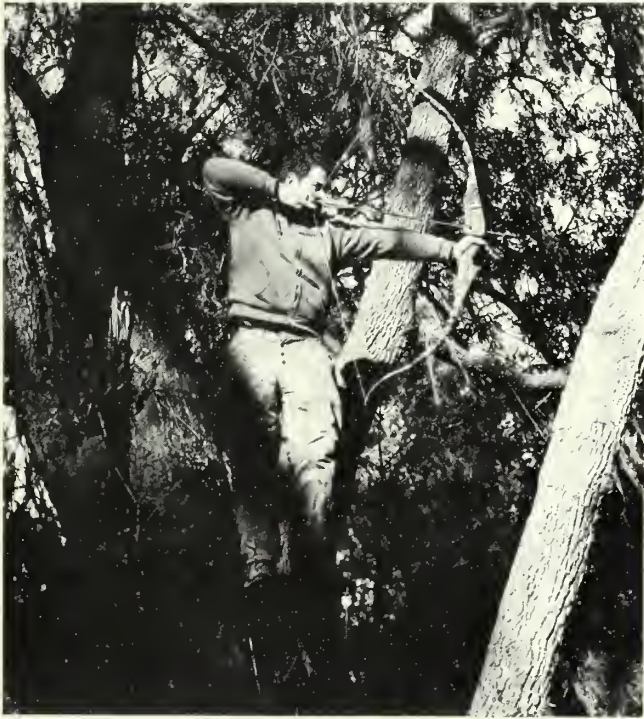
ATLANTIC OCEAN

# 1972 DEER SEASONS

**DEER Archery** The open season for hunting deer with bow and arrow in Game Zones I, II, III, IV and V, shall be from September 30 through October 28, 1972 in any county, or part thereof, having a legal firearms deer season. Bag limit is two (2) bucks or one (1) buck and one (1) doe. Hunting with dogs prohibited except in such areas and during such times as dogs are legal under firearms hunting regulations.

Exception: The open season for hunting deer with bow and arrow in Game Zone VI shall be from September 30 through October 13, 1972, in any county, or part thereof having a legal firearms deer season. Bag limit is two (2) bucks or one (1) buck and one (1) doe. Hunting with dogs prohibited.

Notice: Archery equipment may be used during firearms hunts, however, all hunters must abide by firearms regulations as to bag limits. (260-2-.33 Amended)



**DEER Firearms GAME ZONE I** (see map): Open season November 4 through November 25, 1972. Bag limit two (2) bucks. Hunting with dogs prohibited. The following counties in Game Zone I are *closed* to the taking of deer except as otherwise provided: that portion of Bartow and Cherokee Counties between Knox Bridge and Stamp Creek lying south of Ga. Highway #20 to Lake Allatoona, Catoosa, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Hart, Murray, Pickens and Whitfield. (260-2-.34 Amended)

**GAME ZONE II** (see map): Open season November 4 through December 2, 1972 in all counties in Game Zone II, except Bibb and Clayton Counties. Bag limit two (2) bucks. Hunting with dogs prohibited.

**GAME ZONE II** (see map): Bonus Hunt. The following counties in Game Zone II will be open for a bonus hunt December 25, 1972 through January 1, 1973: Baldwin, Bleckley, Butts, Clarke, Columbia, Coweta, Crawford, Dooly, Elbert, Fayette, Greene, Hancock, Harris, Heard, Henry, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Lincoln, Macon, Meriwether, Monroe, Morgan, McDuffie, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Peach, Pike, Putnam, Richmond, Rockdale, Schley, Spalding, Talbot, Taliaferro, Taylor, Troup, Twiggs, Upson, Walton, Warren, Wilkes and Wilkinson. Bag limit two (2) bucks. Hunting with dogs prohibited.

**GAME ZONE II** (see map): Either Sex Hunt. The following counties in Game Zone II will be open for the taking of deer of either sex on December 2, 1972 and January 1, 1973: Baldwin, Butts, Columbia, Crawford, Greene, Hancock, Henry, Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Lincoln, Macon, Monroe, Morgan, McDuffie, Newton, Putnam, Spalding, Talbot, Taylor, Upson and Wilkes. Bag limit two (2) bucks or one (1) buck and one (1) doe. Hunting with dogs prohibited. (260-2-.35 Amended)

**GAME ZONE III** (see map): November 4, 1972 through January 1, 1973. Bag limit two (2) bucks. Hunting with dogs allowed in Calhoun, Dougherty, Baker, that portion of Lee lying west of U. S. Highway 19, Mitchell, Seminole, Early, Grady, Thomas and Decatur Counties.

**GAME ZONE III** (see map): Either Sex Hunt. The following counties in Game Zone III will be open for the taking of deer of either sex for two days, December 30, 1972 and January 1, 1973: Chattahoochee and Muscogee. Bag limit two (2) bucks or one (1) buck and one (1) doe. Hunting with dogs prohibited.

Hunting with dogs prohibited in Muscogee, Chattahoochee, Randolph, Clay, Quitman and Miller Counties.

Hunting with dogs allowed from December 18, 1972 through January 1, 1973 in Marion Stewart, Terrell and Webster Counties. (260-2-.36 Amended)

**GAME ZONE IV** (see map): November 4, 1972 through November 25, 1972 in the following counties except as otherwise provided: Ben Hill, Coffee, Colquitt, that portion of Dodge County lying west of Ga. Highway 230 and north of U. S. Highway 280. Irwin, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Laurens, that portion of Lee lying east of U. S. Highway 19, Montgomery, Sumter, Telfair, Tift, Wheeler, Wilcox and Worth. Bag limit two (2) bucks. Hunting with dogs prohibited.

Hunting with dogs allowed in Colquitt County on November 17-18 and December 15-16, 1972. Bag limit two (2) bucks. Hunting with dogs allowed.

Hunting with dogs allowed in that portion of Johnson County lying east of the Ohoopsee River on November 13 through 25, 1972. Bag limit two (2) bucks.

Hunting with dogs allowed in that portion of Wilcox County lying east of U.S. Highway 129 and north of U. S. Highway 280 on November 23, 24 and 25, 1972.

Hunting with dogs allowed in that portion of Toombs County lying south of Ga. Highway 107 and 56 from November 4 through November 25, 1972. Bag limit two (2) bucks.

That portion of Dodge County which is open as shown above shall be open for the taking of deer with dogs on November 23, 24 and 25, 1972.



Photo by Leonard Lee Rue III

**GAME ZONE V** (see map): November 4, 1972 through November 18, 1972 in the following counties except as otherwise provided: Brooks, that portion of Echols County lying west of the Alapaha River. Lanier, except that portion lying north of the Seaboard Coastline Railroad and east of the Alapaha River and southeast of U. S. #221, and Lowndes. Bag limit two (2) bucks. Hunting with dogs prohibited.

October 14, 1972 through January 1, 1973 in the following counties except as otherwise provided: Clinch County, *except* that portion lying in the southwest corner of the county, bordered on the north by the Seaboard Coastline Railroad and on the east by Suwannee Creek, and that portion lying north of Arabia Bay Wildlife Management Area and between U. S. Highway 221 and U. S. Highway 441, and that portion of Clinch County lying northwest of U. S. Highway #221, all of which is closed; that portion of Echols County lying east of U. S. Highway 129 and south of Ga. Highway #187; Charlton *except* that portion lying northwest of the Okefenokee Swamp, which is closed; that portion of Lanier County lying north of the Seaboard Coastline Railroad and east of the Alapaha River and southeast of U. S. Highway #221; that portion of Pierce County lying south of U. S. Highway #82, east of Ga. Highway #121, and west of Ga. Highway #32, and also that portion lying north of Pleasant Hill Church Road and bounded on the east by U. S. Highway 82. Bag limit two (2) bucks. Hunting with dogs allowed.

November 20 through 25, 1972 in the following counties: that portion of Atkinson County lying south of the Seaboard Coastline Railroad and east of U. S. Highway #221; that portion of Berrien County lying east of U. S. Highway #129, south of the Alapaha River, north of Georgia Highway #76 and west of Georgia Highway

#135. Bag limit two (2) bucks. Hunting with dogs allowed.

November 4 through November 25, 1972 in Atkinson and Berrien Counties. Bag limit two (2) bucks. Hunting with dogs prohibited.

November 4 through November 25, 1972 in that portion of Ware County lying south of U. S. Highway 82 and west of a road known locally as Swamp Road or Hopkins Road (S. 1914) to a point just north of Gum Swamp Creek known as the Bee Yard Road and continuing along Bee Yard Road to the Blitch Road, along Blitch Road to the Clinch County line. Bag limit two (2) bucks. Hunting with dogs allowed.

(260-2-.38 Amended)

**GAME ZONE VI** (see map): Open season October 14, 1972 through January 1, 1973. Bag limit two (2) bucks. Hunting with dogs permitted, except as otherwise provided. Treutlen County is closed to the taking of deer at any time.

Glascock County shall be open for the taking of deer November 4, 1972 through January 1, 1973. Bag limit two (2) bucks. Hunting with dogs prohibited, provided however, that hunting with dogs will be allowed in Glascock County from December 18, 1972 through January 1, 1973.

The marshes and islands lying east of the Intercoastal Waterway in Bryan, Camden, Chatham, Glynn, Liberty and McIntosh Counties will be open for the taking of deer of either sex on October 14, 1972 through January 1, 1973. Bag limit two (2) bucks or one (1) buck and one (1) doe. Hunting with dogs allowed; provided however, that Sapelo and Blackbeard Islands are closed to all hunting except as otherwise specifically provided. (260-2-.39 Amended)

## THE VIOLATOR IS A THIEF

Because Georgia's wildlife belongs to everyone, the game law violator is a thief. You can help preserve Georgia's wildlife by reporting violations, along with the car tag number on the violator's car, a brief description, the location, time, and other helpful information. Rangers may be reached by calling collect the nearest district office of the Division, your local sheriff or police department, or the ranger's home.

Game and Fish Division offices and their telephone numbers are:

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Atlanta</b>       | <b>404-656-3510</b> |
| <b>Brunswick</b>     | <b>912-265-1552</b> |
| <b>Calhoun</b>       | <b>404-629-8674</b> |
| <b>Dawson</b>        | <b>912-995-5614</b> |
| <b>Fitzgerald</b>    | <b>912-423-2988</b> |
| <b>Ft. Valley</b>    | <b>912-825-8248</b> |
| <b>Gainesville</b>   | <b>404-536-6062</b> |
| <b>Macon</b>         | <b>912-742-1335</b> |
| <b>Manchester</b>    | <b>404-846-2541</b> |
| <b>Metter</b>        | <b>912-685-2145</b> |
| <b>Richmond Hill</b> | <b>912-756-3679</b> |
| <b>Thomson</b>       | <b>404-595-4211</b> |
| <b>Walton</b>        | <b>404-557-2227</b> |
| <b>Waycross</b>      | <b>912-283-6639</b> |

# Sportsman's Calendar

## HUNTING SEASONS

**DOVES:** September 9 opens the split season on doves in Georgia this year with the first part ending September 30 and the second part beginning December 2 through January 13. Daily shooting hours are from 12 noon until sunset. The daily bag limit is 12 and the possession limit is 24.

Doves are protected by federal law as a migratory game bird and federal agents as well as state wildlife rangers will be on the lookout for violators of the bag limits or those shooting over baited fields.

**SQUIRREL:** Early season on squirrels begins September 1 through September 30 with the second season beginning November 4 and ending February 28. The bag limit is 10 daily.

## PUBLIC FISHING AREAS

McDuffie—March 1 through October 31, 1972.

Arrowhead—April 1 through October 31, 1972. Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays only.

## TROUT SEASONS

The Georgia trout season will run from April 1-October 7 on all open trout streams and Dockery Lake. The creel limit will be eight (8) trout per day with eight (8) in possession.

The managed trout streams will be open from April 29 through Labor Day on the specified days noted in the Managed Stream Schedule, below. Those streams not listed in this schedule open and close with the regular state trout season (April 1-October 7).

The state trout regulations have been significantly changed this season and the angler is advised to check a copy of the Georgia Trout Regulations 1972 for specific details.

## NEW GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS

There will be a minimum size limit of twelve (12) inches on largemouth bass on all public waters of the state.

Special creel limits:

One (1) trout per day on Waters Creek (Chestatee WMA).

Five (5) largemouth bass per day on Lake Russell.

Five (5) each, largemouth and chain pickerel and twenty-five (25) bream, no limit on bullhead catfish but no channel catfish may be taken on the Suwannee River.

# MANAGED STREAM SCHEDULE

| Management Area | Stream                         | May                        | June                       | July                       | August                     | September                                       |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| BLUE RIDGE      | Jones Creek (Artificial Lures) | Sat., Sun                  | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |
|                 | Montgomery                     | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |
|                 | Nimblewill                     | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |
|                 | Naantaatla (artificial lures)  | Every Day                  | Every Day                  | Every Day                  | Every Day                  | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |
|                 | Rock Creek                     | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |
| CHATTAHOOCHEE   | Chattahoochee                  | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed.,        | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |
|                 | Dukes                          | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |
| CHESTATEE       | Baggs                          | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |
|                 | Dicks                          | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |
|                 | Waters (artificial lures)      | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |
| LAKE BURTON     | Moccasin                       | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed., Thurs. | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |
|                 | Wildcat                        | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |
| LAKE RUSSELL    | Middle Broad                   | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed.,        | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed.,        | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed.,        | Sat., Sun.<br>Wed.,        | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |
| WARWOMAN        | Finney                         | Wed., Thurs.               | Sat., Sun                  | Wed., Thurs.               | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |
|                 | Saraha                         | Wed., Thurs.               | Sat., Sun.                 | Wed., Thurs.               | Sat., Sun.                 | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |
|                 | Walnut Fork                    | Sat., Sun.                 | Wed., Thurs.               | Sat., Sun.                 | Wed., Thurs.               | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |
|                 | Hoods Creek                    | Sat., Sun.                 | Wed., Thurs.               | Sat., Sun.                 | Wed., Thurs.               | Sat., Sept. 2<br>Sun., Sept. 3<br>Mon., Sept. 4 |

All trout streams open on Saturday, April 29 and Sunday, April 30. The succeeding fishing days are indicated. Also all trout streams will be open on Monday, May 29 and Tuesday, July 4.

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